

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes

September 16, 2014

Members present: Ray Guenter, Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Ruth Kurien, Connie Melo, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, and Phillip Walker
Staff present: Susan Huleatt, Gina Marino
Guests: Jim Doran
Volunteer Secretary: Amy Lynn Silverman

Phillip Walker chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM.

The Minutes of June 17, 2014 were approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

To Phil anticipates an exciting year and welcomes ideas for maximum attendance. Transportation continues to be a concern. Phil and Donna Sterling have visited both Senior Centers to get thoughts and ideas from the members of the centers. Ted Thomas has resigned and Phil asked that the commission members join him in thanking Ted for his service. The vacancy needs to be filled by a Republican.

Transportation

Ruth Kurien reported that ITN has hired Kevin Farmer as the part-time Executive Director. Ruth will ask him to attend the November meeting. The Transportation Forum to be held today features brief presentation from Dial-A-Ride, ADA Paratransit, Freedom Rides, ITN, Amride and the Senior Job Bank. Attendees will have opportunities to ask questions and meet with the representatives. A question was raised about whether we investigate what other communities are doing.

Senior Job Bank

Jim Doran reported that the SJB has responded to about 750 "help" requests. The request rate is approximately 80 a month which factors out to 1,000 per year. With the exception of Newington and Avon all towns previously served are being serviced. Newington will launch on Oct. 22. Each community served has a volunteer coordinator. In calendar 2013, expenses were slightly less than the budgeted \$50,000. The budget for 2014 is the same. The SJB is in the process of upgrading software and the website.

Human Services Report

Susan Huleatt noted that September is National Depression Month. On Oct 9 the department will partner with Jewish Family Services to provide depression screening. On Tuesday the 23rd, the department is partnering with the Institute of Living to bring in Kevin Hines, the author of Cracked Not Broken to speak about suicide prevention. Local statistics indicate that the most vulnerable are adolescents, young adults and older men. Susan also reported that Energy Assistant appointments are being scheduled.

Benefit Sheet

Susan Huleatt said the sheet has been update and Susan will share it with the Commission. Linda Hanson offered to help with distribution.

Town Council Report

No Report

Senior Center Reports

Gina Marino reported that for the 30th anniversary of the annual golf tournament 90 golfers are expected. This is a major fundraiser for the center. She handed out bags that are part of the gifts for the golfers. Events include: Conversations on Aging; Financial Check Up; Better Balance, Trips Down Memory Lane, Sports Talk with Ned Skinnon, a Mah Jongg Tournament, the Fire Fighters Italian Cook Off, and a low vision specialist at an upcoming Bagel Breakfast. There will be a Candidates Luncheon on Oct. 29.

Kathleen Faroni submitted a written report after the meeting. New classes, trips and programs are off to a great start after the Fall Registration Kick-off with gift incentives. A Women's Breakfast was held to discuss organizing and planning a group. A Social Work Intern from UConn will be working 1 day a week providing group and individual counseling. Other programs include: an Eagle Scout project on new horseshoe pits, AP Art Students from Conard completing the elm tree mural, University of Hartford PT students, the Mobile Mammography vehicle and PSA testing will be free on Oct. 2nd, Flu Clinics in Nov. and the sale of chrysanthemums. A new 60: flat screen TV has been purchased. Two new bus drivers were hired.

New Business

Donna Sterling reminded the members that Representative John Larson will be present at the October meeting from 10am to 11am. This not to be a political agenda; rather a discussion about the many issues facing seniors and how to leverage what is available. The intention is that Larson listen to the Commission members. Phil and Ellen will work on an invitation list that might include directors of various non-profits. Susan will invite people from her department.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October 21, at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Secretary